



Written Testimony
Peter Gorman, President
Connecticut Environmental Council

OPPOSE SB-116 AN ACT CONCERNING NOTIFICATION OF PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS NEAR
LAKES AND PONDS

Environment Committee
Friday, February 25, 2022

Good afternoon, Senator Cohen, Representative Gresko, Senator Miner, Representative Harding, and the distinguished members of the Environment Committee. My name is Peter Gorman, I am a resident of Newington and currently serve as president of the CT Environmental Council (CTEC). I am a former golf course superintendent at Pine Orchard Yacht and Country Club in Branford and have maintained a Class 3b supervisory pesticide license for twenty years. Thank you for affording me the opportunity to testify in opposition to **SB 116, NOTIFICATION OF PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS NEAR LAKES AND PONDS.**

CTEC is a membership organization representing associations and professionals. Association members include the Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association, the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, the Connecticut Pest Control Association, the Connecticut Irrigation Contractors Association, the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents, and the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association.

SB-116 An Act Concerning Notification of Pesticide Applications Near Lakes and Ponds, may have the best intentions but in actuality may harm the environment that it wishes to protect. **We therefore respectfully oppose SB-116.**

Licensed pesticide applicators utilize Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in controlling unwanted/invasive weeds in aquatic settings. IPM practice is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pest damage by

the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.¹

By utilizing IPM, which includes proper use and application of EPA and DEEP-registered pesticides and fertilizers, applications are made when environmental conditions, weather conditions and pest/weed numbers are at the optimum to allow for a treatment that allows for the least amount of chemical to be applied while gaining the most control of the issue weed/insect. Aquatic invasive plants and animals are increasingly becoming a problem, causing severe economic and ecological damage to critical freshwater systems. The best strategy for controlling an invasive pest employs an integrated pest management (IPM) approach using a combination of biological, physical, chemical, and social/cultural control methods.²

Addressing the proposed language, "...notice and sign shall list only those dates when application is scheduled to actually occur rather than a range of dates when application could possibly occur." **To best protect our environment and properly control aquatic pests, the optimal application time should not be pinpointed by a date on the calendar. Under current statute, by permitting a range of dates the applicator is able to select the best possible date to make the application to best protect the environment and control the pest population. The applicator will use best management and application practices according to the product label, pest thresholds, and weather conditions.**

CTEC and its member organizations most respectfully ask that you not move forward with this legislation because of the unintended environmental consequences of eliminating the range of dates. Please oppose SB-116.

Peter Gorman
President

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/ipm/introduction-integrated-pest-management>

² <https://afspubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/nafm.10331>